

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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# *Bromeliads*

and other fascinating tropical plants  
from the collection of

Mulford B. Foster

718 Magnolia Avenue

Orlando, Florida









## **TROPICAL PLANTS FOR YOUR HOME**

from our home where the growing of plants  
is an expression of Art

**1949**

### **CATALOGUE NO. 3**

**1950**

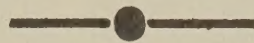
#### **Featuring Bromeliads**

and other plant gems from the collection of

**Mulford B. Foster**

**718 Magnolia Avenue**

**Orlando, Florida**



There is something utterly fascinating about bromeliads, but few people in this country are familiar with this decorative group of plants which has so few competitors. They can be an outstanding adornment to the home or warm climate garden. In Europe for nearly a century bromeliads have been and still are classed among the finest and most desirable decorative plants.

There are three distinctive types of bromeliads, terrestrial, saxicolous (on rocks) and epiphytic (on trees). However, the bromeliads which are the most suitable as house plants are the epiphytic types (air plants) which, out in the jungle survive by clinging firmly to the rough bark of trees, but without deriving any nourishment from their host. These make the adjustment to household conditions remarkably well. They are appealingly versatile in leaf and flower color, in the manner in which they bloom, how they hold their water and how they propagate.

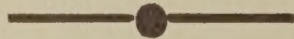


Within the epiphytic group are two distinct types of plants, those that hold their water in tiny microscopic scales (the fuzz) on the leaves (noticeable mostly in *Tillandsias*,) and those that have more glabrous leaves (smooth or shiny.) This latter type is described as a leafy rosette arranged in a whorled mass of a series of ascending troughed leaves, so tight fitting that water is naturally held at the base of each leaf. They have been called "nest" or "basket" plants.

Because these epiphytic plants constantly hold water between their leaves, it is possible to use them as a living flower vase placing small stemmed cut flowers in the leaf cups.

Among the other types of bromeliads, species of *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Ananas*, *Orthophytum*, *Neoglaziovia*, etc., are interesting spiny succulents, either terrestrial or saxicolous, all having similar plant form (with many variations) to the pineapple plant. In cultivation they require medium sandy soil with small amounts of dairy manure; they feed directly through their roots although the basal part of the leaves absorbs certain foods from the air. Moderate watering suffices their thirst. These terrestrials have a versatility all their own and are quite an addition to the sub-tropical rock garden in the larger sizes as well as to the dish gardens with the smaller sizes.

Bromeliaceae is a great all-American family of plants named (in 1789) to honor Olaf Bromel, a Swedish botanist. Because the pineapple which we eat is a member of this family it has become popularly known as the "pineapple family." Members of the family live all over South and Central America as well as a few species in southern parts of the United States.



With each shipment of epiphytic bromeliads, full instructions and proper potting medium are included. We prefer that you send check or money order. **No C. O. D. Orders Please.** We send plants by American Express with express charges collect, except to those who have only a postal box address, and the order is small enough, we will send by parcel post and bill you for the postage.

We prefer that you do not order between the dates of Dec. 5th and March 15th, especially if you live in the large cities, because the Christmas rush makes deliveries delayed, and the cold northern winter on these tropical plants in transit means they may not arrive safely. Exceptions can be made to southern states with a mild climate.

**We are not responsible for plants in transit;** if they do not arrive in good condition, **show them immediately** to the Express Agent and receive a claim sheet which can be sent to us for adjustment.

Please do not be disappointed if your order is not filled under two weeks; we always get to them just as fast as possible, and in the event your order cannot be filled within a reasonable amount of time we will refund your money.

Except on the Amaryllids which are sent by prepaid Parcel Post, we ask that you do not send for orders less than \$5.00 owing to expense and time in packing. Our reputation for careful packing has been well earned and we spare no effort nor time in assuring their safe arrival.



**ACANTHOSTACHYS STROBIL-  
ACEA** (Brazil) rare; epiphytic;  
leaves pendent and terete; bears  
small red cone-like fruit; 12 to  
18 inch leaves, **\$1.50**; larger  
plants **\$3.00**; grows like Rhipsa-  
lis.

**AECHMEA BRACTEATA** (Mex-  
ico) A large plant up to 3 ft.;  
flower stalk brilliant red and  
green, up to 6 ft.; large type, fo-  
liage green; small type, foliage  
reddish; excellent for garden in  
sun or shade in sub-tropical cli-  
mate; takes slight frost; can be  
used as house plant in a sunny  
spot; 12 to 14 in. **\$1.50**; 16 to 18  
in. **\$3.50**.

**AECHMEA HYBRID** "Foster's  
Favorite." My finest aechmea hy-  
brid; the first bromeliad to be  
patented; lovely, smooth, "lac-  
quered" wine-red leaves; green at  
base; drooping, berry-like flower  
stalk; midnight blue flowers;  
blooms in winter; 10 to 14 in.  
height, **\$2.00**; blooming size, **\$3.50**

**AECHMEA HYBRID** "Bert"  
(Named for my son) A cross of  
**A. Orlandiana** and **A. Fosteriana**;  
very hardy leaves with similar  
appearance to its parents, but  
has finer shape; small 6 to 8 in.  
size, **\$2.00**; 8 to 14 inches, **\$4.00**;  
for an excellent artistic arrange-  
ment try a double plant, **\$7.50** or  
**\$10.00**.

**AECHMEA FASCIATA** (The  
Urn Plant) (Brazil), Urn-shaped  
plant of green leaves banded  
with white; margins toothed;  
blooms in July-August; pyramid-  
al shaped flower head of pink  
bracts between which come  
French blue flowers that turn  
violet and then deep rose; inflor-  
escence lasts 3 to 5 months; 8 in.  
size, **\$2.00**; large blooming size,  
14 in. height with a 12 in. spread.  
**\$5.00**.

**AECHMEA FOSTERIANA** (My  
new species) (Brazil) Tubular-  
shaped plant; light green upright  
leaves spectacularly mottled  
with black-green blotches; 8 to  
10 in size, **\$3.00**; 18 to 20 in. size,  
**\$5.00**.



**ACANTHOSTACHYS STROBIL-  
ACEA**

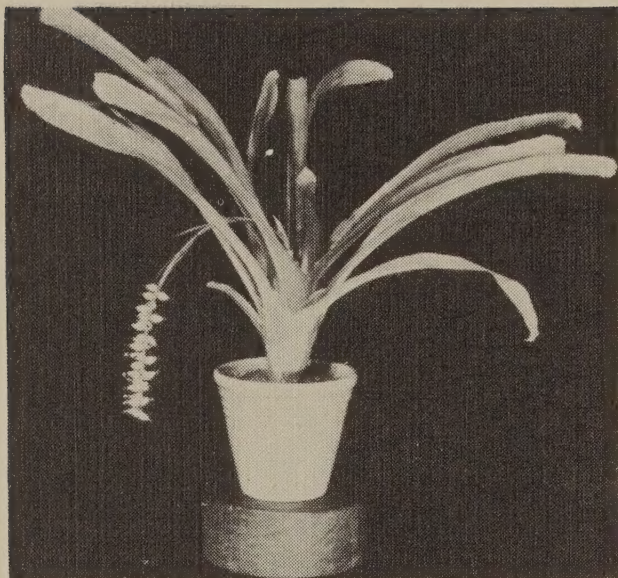


**AECHMEA BRACTEATA**



**AECHMEA HYBRID "Bert"**





**AECHMEA HYBRID** "Foster's Favorite."



**AECHMEA FASCIATA**



**AECHMEA MARMORATA**

**AECHMEA FULGENS** (Brazil) Tubular-shaped plant; pale green leaves; brilliant red flower stalk of red berry-like flower with blue petals; blooming size \$2.50; blooms in May.

**AECHMEA MARMORATA** (Brazil) "Grecian Vase;" a classic; Nature's original flower vase; is a perfect receptacle for cut flowers occasionally; is a tall tubular water-filled vase-like plant; very chic; symmetrical, modern, dull green leaves mottled with dark green and maroon; drooping flower stalk of pink-rose and French-blue flowers; a "must" for all plant fanciers; small 8 to 10 in. size \$2.50; medium 10 to 12 in. size, \$3.50. a large blooming size up to 16 inches. \$4.50; flowers in May.

**AECHMEA MINIATA DISCOLOR** (Brazil) The "Living Vase;" glossy, soft green leaves upper side; glossy maroon underside; blooms in May; a red berry-like flower head with bright blue petals; has a spread up to 12 in; 8 in. size, \$2.00; denser, larger blooming size up to 12 inches, \$3.00; flower stalk lasts three months.

**AECHMEA ORLANDIANA** (Brazil) (My new species) is a "snazzy" plant with its light green leaves and black zebraic mottlings; center leaves are upturned; lower leaves turn downward; margins with brown teeth; blooms in mid-winter with orange flower spike; white flowers; 5 in. size, \$2.00; 6 to 7 in. \$3.00; 7 to 12 inch blooming size, \$4.00; double plant decorative form, \$6.00.

**AECHMEA PINELIANA** (Brazil) A most unusual bromeliad; soft quiet tones of grey, rose and copper in leaves; prominent teeth on margins; has a pastel quality; has brilliant stem covered with red bracts topped by a small flower head full of yellow teasle-like bristles; blooms in spring; small size 6 in. height and same spread, \$2.50; 7 to 8 in. \$3.50; blooming size, \$5.00.



**AECHMEA PUBESCENS** (Central America) A novelty for collectors; plain green recurving leaves; a green complex flower head covered with pubescent scales; fruit turns jade green and remains for several months; \$1.50 and 2.50; starts blooming in April.

**AECHMEA RACINAE** (Brazil) "Xmas Jewels" (My new species named for my wife) A very cheerful gay plant when in bloom at Christmas; a drooping flower stem with a bunch of brilliant red berries tipped with yellow and black flowers; rosette shaped plant of plain glossy leaves; small size 8 to 10 in., \$2.00; double plant, blooming size, \$3.00.

**AECHMEA SCHULTESIANA** (Colombia) New Introduction; foliage is rose-maroon and green; fruit, Indigo Blue; height 9 to 12 in., \$2.00; 12 to 16 in., \$3.00.

**AECHMEA TILLANDSIODES** var. *Kienastii* (Colombia) The plant that will make you sing, "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue;" red bracts; white fruit which turns brilliant blue; plain glossy green leaves. \$3.00. Ready in 1950.

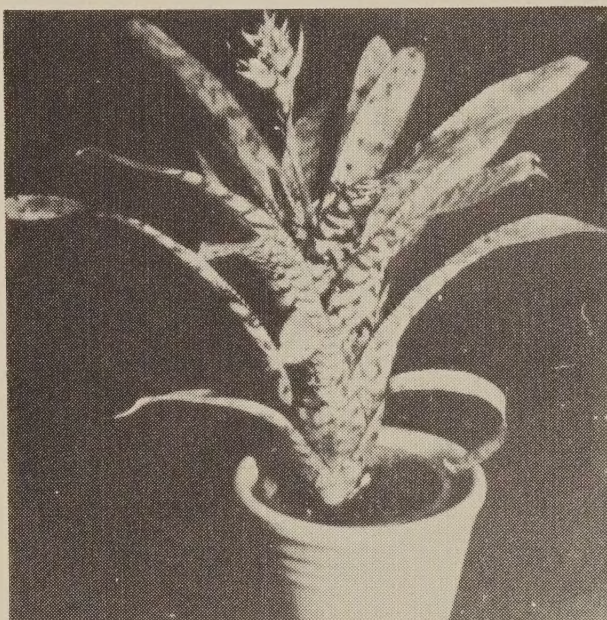
**AECHMEA WEILBACHII** (Brazil) A rosette which has slender upright leaves with soft glints of bronze-salmon and green; more ethereal than most bromeliad flower spikes of long endurance; 12 in. long, containing dull red "berries" topped by lavender petals; has spread of 12 inches; medium plant \$3.50; larger blooming size, \$5.00; blooms in December.

**ANANAS BRACTEATA** (Brazil) Wild edible pineapple; showy, quick grower, for outside in Calif. and Florida only; not a commercial species; height and spread 3 ft. Flowers in March; beautiful red fruit stays all summer. \$1.00.

**BILLBERGIA AMOENA** var. **VIRIDIS** (Brazil) Leaves dark rose-red with white and green



**AECHMEA MINIATA DISCOLOR**



**AECHMEA ORLANDIANA**



**AECHMEA PUBESCENS**





**AECHMEA RACINAE**



**AECHMEA TILLANDSIOIDES**



**AECHMEA WEILBACHII**

spots; upright green flower with delicate pink bracts; first offering of my new discovery; tubular plant, 16 to 18 in. high, \$3.50; blooms in May and June.

**BILLBERGIA IRIDIFOLIA**  
var. **CONCOLOR** (Brazil)

My new discovery; far superior to species type; a tubular plant 12 to 14 in. high; leaves grey-green, gracefully curled; pale pink bracts, yellow flowers; a decorative double plant, \$2.50.

**BILLBERGIA LEPTOPODA** (Brazil) (Permanent Wave Plant) An excellent house plant whose leaves are permanently curled; leaves spotted and plain green; height 12 in., flower red, blue yellow; double plant, \$2.50; especially decorative.

**BILLBERGIA MEYERII** (Brazil) Slender, stiff, tubular type leaves; dark grey-brown, spot banded with grey; up to 18 to 20 inches long and only 2 in. wide. Very stylistic; pendent inflorescence; pink bracts on stem; small size, 75c; medium size, \$1.50; tall blooming size, \$2.00.

**BILLBERGIA PYRAMIDALIS** (Brazil) Glauous green leaves; urn-shaped plant; brilliant upright cluster of flowers; scarlet petals with blue tinge; grows well outside in sub-tropical climate; winter blooming type \$2.00.

**BILLBERGIA SAUNDERSII** (Brazil) Tubular type; plain green with grey horizontal bands; bracts on drooping flower stem are brilliant red; petals are dark blue and recurve; winter bloom; small plants, \$1.50; mottled leaf type, \$2.00.

**BILLBERGIA VITTATA** (Brazil) Stiff, tubular plant; colorful banded leaves; lovely dark blue flower; glowing red bracts; blooms in January; medium size, \$1.00; blooming size, \$1.50.

**BROMELIA BALANSAE** (formerly *B. serra*) "Heart of Flame" from South America;



large terrestrial; spiny; for outside gardens only in sub-tropical climate; extremely showy and stunning garden decoration; blooms in May; center leaves turn brilliant scarlet out of which emerges a white flower stalk bearing scarlet bracts over maroon flowers. A glorious color experience; takes some frost. **\$1.50.**

**BROMELIA BALANSAE** (B. serra) **VARIEGATA.** The most beautiful and rarest plant of the genus; striking variegated green and white leaves **\$7.50 and \$10.00.**

**CRYPTANTHUS ACAULIS** (Brazil) Has a green phase and a red phase; the bronze-red leaves make the latter a choice phase; 5 inch spread, **50c.**

**CRYPTANTHUS BAHIANUS** (Brazil) (New Species) Stiff, whirling, plain green leaves; teeth on margins; flowers white; enjoys sun or shade; small plants **\$1.00; C. Bahianus hybrid, \$1.00.**

**CRYPTANTHUS BIVITTATUS** (Brazil) Has dignified stripes overcast with salmon-rose, the leaves remind one of a many-pointed starfish; white center flower in "crypt"; **50c and 75c.**

**CRYPTANTHUS BEUCKERII** (Brazil) Unlike most of the cryptanthus this one has a long petiole (leaf stem) which gives it a spoon shaped leaf; it is very ornate with its dark green splotches on the light green leaf; **50c and \$1.00.**

**CRYPTANTHUS ZONATUS** (Brazil) The most stunning of the low table cryptanthus; its colors and mottlings can be likened to the feathers of a pheasant; plant is flat; leaves crinkly as the edge of a pie crust; plant attains the height of two to four inches; has a spread of 10 inches; **\$1.00 and \$1.50.**

**CRYPTANTHUS ZONATUS HYBRID** (without stripes) Leaves completely grey; very soft and subtle color; large plants have a 10 inch spread; **75c and \$1.00.**



**ANANAS BRACTEATA**



**BILLBERGIA AMOENA var. VIRIDIS**



**BILLBERGIA LEPTOPODA**





**BROMELIA BALANSAE**



**BILLBERGIA PYRAMIDALIS**



**CRYPTANTHUS BIVITTATUS**

#### **HYBRIDS**

B. nutans X Crypt. Beuckerii  
50c and 75c.

B. nutans X Crypt. Bahianus  
50c and \$1.00.

**DYCKIA CUTAK** (D. sulphurea X D. leptostachya) My new hybrid; has bronze-red leaves; spiny; vigorous grower does best outside in warm climate; produces several blooming stalks per year; plant develops into a compact group of plants; tall flowering stalk of orange flower; \$1.00 and \$2.00.

**DYCKIA FOSTERIANA** (My new species) A dense whorl of lovely silvery arched leaves which produce a spike of rich orange flowers. Certainly far surpasses any known Dyckia. Each plant develops a double head and sub-divides, forming a compact multiple mound. This is the first offering. Stock is limited and only one plant to a person. Size 3 to 4 inches, \$5.00.

**DYCKIA LEPTOSTACHYA** (Brazil) Leaves are bronze, spines on margins; flower rich orange; persistent bloomer; can be used as a house plant and also as a garden plant in sub-tropical climate; 10 inch spread; 50c and 75c and \$1.00.

**GUZMANIA MINOR** (Brazil) A small but attractive plant; plain green leaves; spineless; pretty rosette; long lasting flower head of orange bracts; yellow and white flowers; \$2.00.

**HOHENBERGIA STELLATA** (Brazil) Has a spectacular 4 to 5 foot spike of flower clusters with brilliant cerise red bracts, French purple-blue flowers; plant has light green leaves in rosette formation with heavy spines on margins; rather large for house plant; is best in greenhouse or conservatory; \$2.00; \$3.00; \$7.50; would thrive outside in tropical climate.

**NEOREGELIA FARINOSA** (Brazil) "Crimson Cup." First introduction into horticulture;



whorling rosette formation; center leaves and bracts turn vivid crimson in advance of small purple flowers; color remains for several months; starts to bloom in April; 8 inch height with an 8 to 12 inch spread, **\$3.50.**

**NEOREGELIA FARINOSA** hybrids, having the showy crimson center along with various colored leaves; **\$1.50** and **\$3.50.**

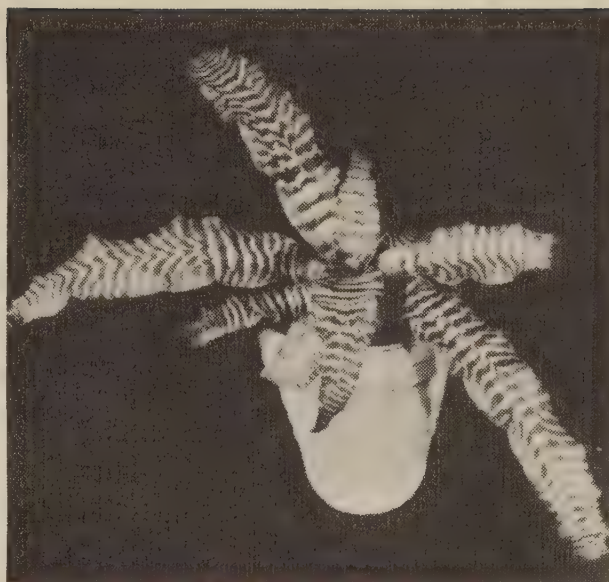
**NEOREGELIA HYBRIDS** Some beautiful showy, colorful hybrids; dwarf rosettes; average size 8 in. high with a 7 inch spread; **\$1.00** and **\$2.00.**

**NEOREGELIA MARMORATA** "Marble Plant" is a hybrid with stiff rosette form; light green leaves with red-marbled spots; has red "fingernail" tips; purple flowers low in center; makes an excellent living flower vase; **\$1.50** for an 8 inch high plant with a 5 inch spread; **\$3.50** for a large fine specimen with a 12 inch spread.

**NIDULARIUM AMAZONICUM** (Brazil) A stunning plant which enjoys dense shade; leaves are purplish-maroon with green; center cup is made up of brick-red bracts surrounding ivory white flower; very stunning; 6 inches high with a 10 inch spread, **\$3.00**; 9 in. high with a 12 in spread or more, **\$5.00.**

**NIDULARIUM FULGENS** (Brazil) A whorled rosette of exquisite light green leaves with dark splotches; showy unarmed teeth on margins; at flowering period center bracts turn brilliant cerise; purple flowers emerge; color remains several months; 10 inches in height with a 12 inch spread, **\$5.00**; a gloriously beautiful plant. Blooms in spring.

**NEOREGELIA TRISTIS** (Brazil) Semi-dwarf; tubular type; height 6 to 9 inches with a 5 to 6 inch spread; leaves spotted with red; also spotted with dark purple; supply limited. **\$1.50.**



**CRYPTANTHUS ZONATUS**

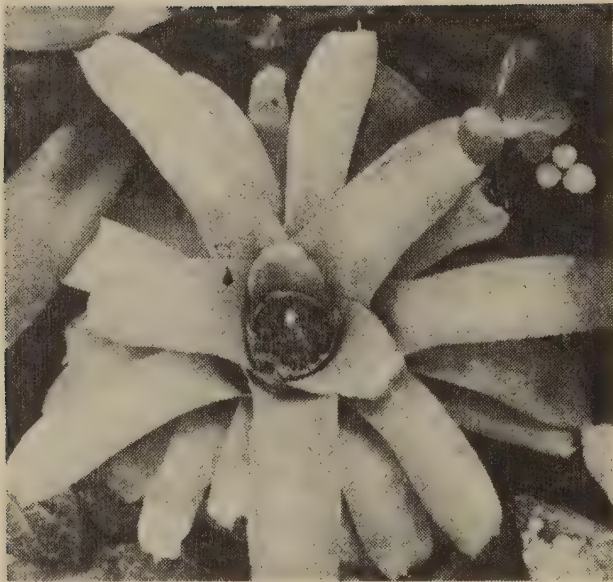


**DYCKIA FOSTERIANA**



**HOHENBERGIA STELLATA**





**NEOREGELIA FARINOSA**



**NEOREGELIA MARMORATA**



**NEOREGELIA SPECTABILIS**

**NEOREGELIA SARMENTOSA**  
var. **CHLOROSTICTA** (Brazil) A brilliant semi-dwarf Neoregelia; in full light, leaves are deep red with green spots; \$1.50; \$2.50; \$3.00.

**NEOREGELIA SPECTABILIS**  
"Painted Fingernail" (Brazil) Stiff rosette with troughed green leaves tipped with red "fingernails;" underside has greyed leaves with lighter grey horizontal bands; excellent for living flower vase; \$1.00 size is small, only 6 inches high; \$3.00 size is very showy. 8 inches high and more or less 12 inch spread; a few at \$4.00; blue flowers come in spring and remain low in center cup; will take sub-tropical climate outside in Florida and Calif.

**NIDULARIUM INNOCENTII**  
(Brazil) Small type with purple leaves underside; nice rosette; flower white; price \$3.00. A larger type with all green leaves, white flowers, \$3.00 and \$4.00

**NIDULARIUM RUTILANS**  
(Brazil) Leaves light mottled green, sparsely toothed; center bracts bright cerise; flowers red; rosette; \$2.50 size has 10 inch spread; \$3.50 size has 14 to 16 in. spread; blooms in spring.

**QUESNELIA ARVENSIS** (Brazil) A rather large, showy plant of plain green serrated leaves; spectacular flower head of watermelon pink bracts protecting blue flowers; 12 to 18 inch full size \$5.00 and \$7.50.

**QUESNELIA HUMILIS** (Brazil) Smallest sized plant in genus; tubular 8 to 10 inches in height; plain green leaves; clusters of flowers are glowing cerise; small but very colorful, 2.00.

**QUESNELIA LIBONIANA** (Brazil) A stiff tubular type with glossy yellowish leaves; flower stem hangs gracefully down having several tubular dark purple flowers held by bright orange bracts. 1.50.



**QUESNELIA TESTUDO** (Brazil) is slightly smaller than *Q. arvensis*; has light yellow-green leaves; toothed; watermelon pink bracts; flowers blue; very full with a 15 inch spread; \$4.00 and would be best suitable in a greenhouse; 12 to 18 inches high plant because of its large size; \$5.00; March bloom.

**TILLANDSIA FASCICULATA** (Florida) Excellent for your tree-garden in sub-tropical climate; a dense rosette of narrow grey leaves heavy with tomentose scales; plant 14 inches in height; flower spike of 20 inches is of brilliant cardinal red bracts protecting deep purple flowers; \$1.00; March-April bloom.

**VRIESIA CARINATA** hybrid **MARIE** "Painted Feather;" a dense rosette of plain green shiny leaves; 10 inch spread with a height of 8 to 10 inches; blooms all winter; best time to order is Sept.-October when the stunning flat feather-shaped spike of brilliant red and yellow bracts appear; sustains itself in full color for six months; just like having a bouquet of flowers for \$1.35 a month; well worth the \$8.00 blooming size price; smaller size not in bloom \$5.00.

**VRIESIA CARINATA** (Brazil) (true species). A small edition of the above with a small colorful flower "feather" but not as showy nor as long lasting as the hybrid; plain green shiny leaves; 8 inches high with a 7 inch spread; winter bloom; \$3.50.

**VRIESIA FOSTERIANA** (Brazil) My new species; first introduction; leaves are light green, beautifully marked with maroon penciled design; no spines; plants 12 to 18 inches high, 10 to 12 in. spread; \$5.00 and \$7.50.

**VRIESIA HIEROGLYPHICA** (Brazil) King of the bromeliads for a century; magnificent foliage of light green leaves with black irregular markings similar to hieroglyphs; in the jungle this plant has perfect protective.



**QUESNELIA ARVENSIS**



**QUESNELIA LIBONIANA**



**TILLANDSIA FASCICULATA**





**TILLANDSIA STREPTOPHYLLA**



**VRIESIA CARINATA** hybrid  
**MARIE**



**VRIESIA HIEROGLYPHICA**

coloration; needs shade and moisture; not recommended for ordinary household; but a very choice plant if your conditions are favorable to epiphytes; \$5.00 and \$7.50.

**VRIESIA SCHWAKEANA**

(Brazil) An old favorite; leaves dull green with maroon flecks; large showy branched inflorescence 20 to 24 inches; plant 12 to 14 inches high, \$7.50.

**VRIESIA RETROFLEXA** (Bra-

zil) Plant of plain green leaves in full rosette form; 8 inches in height, 8 to 10 inches in spread; has a reflex pendent inflorescence of open red and yellow bracts, \$8.00.

**VRIESIA SCALARIS** (Brazil)

Similar in color to above but is smaller plant; inflorescence is more open and hangs straight down from plant; only price \$5.00.

**COLLECTOR'S ITEMS**

Since we have a very limited supply of the following rare bromeliads, we are offering these to the bromeliad fans who already have a good start in their collections of the more popular numbers. They are not beginner's plants because they may require certain conditions, or they are too large for household use; also we have but a few specimens of each for sale.

**AECHMEA PECTINATA** (Bra-

zil) A large rosette; leaves spotted with darker green and red; a beautiful specimen; reaches 20 inch spread; \$5.00 and \$7.50.

**AECHMEA FULGENS DISCOL-**

**OR** (Brazil) More beautiful in leaf and flower than *A. fulgens*; powdery maroon leaves; brilliant gorgeous flower head of berry-like flowers with purple petals; \$2.00; larger, fuller blooming size, \$3.50; blooms in June.

**AECHMEA NUDICALIS VAR.**

**CUSPIDATA** (Brazil) This plant stands neglect; likes to be dry; is



a sturdy plant novelty; greyish; stiff green leaves; white bands; angular, **\$3.50.**

**ANANAS ANANASOIDES** (Brazil) A miniature wild pineapple; maximum height with fruit 24 inches; very decorative; can take sub-tropical climate; \$1.50; fruiting size, \$3.00; supply limited, only one to a customer.

**BILLBERGIA EUPHEMIA** (Brazil) An old favorite but our supply is low; tubular red-leaf phase; plant climbs on long stolons; pendent flower head of delicate pink bracts; blue-lavender petals; flowers last only a few days; height 12 inches; spread of 11 inches; blooms in Feb.-March; **\$2.50.**

**NEOGLAZIOVIA VARIEGATA** (Brazil) Brazil's finest fiber plant; leaves stiff, banded and almost cylindrical; grows on the cactus desert, **\$3.00.**

**NEOREGELIA CAROLINAE** (Brazil) (Ready in 1951) Narrow, glossy, green leaves in a dense rosette; center bracts turn brilliant cerise red; flowers lavender; in color for a year; 18 inch spread; 10 inches high; **\$5.00 and \$7.50.**

**ORTHOPHYTUM FOLIOSUM** (Brazil) My new species; interesting botanical for the succulent fan; grows to 20 inches high; has clusters of white flowers on tall spike of plain green foliage; **\$2.50.**

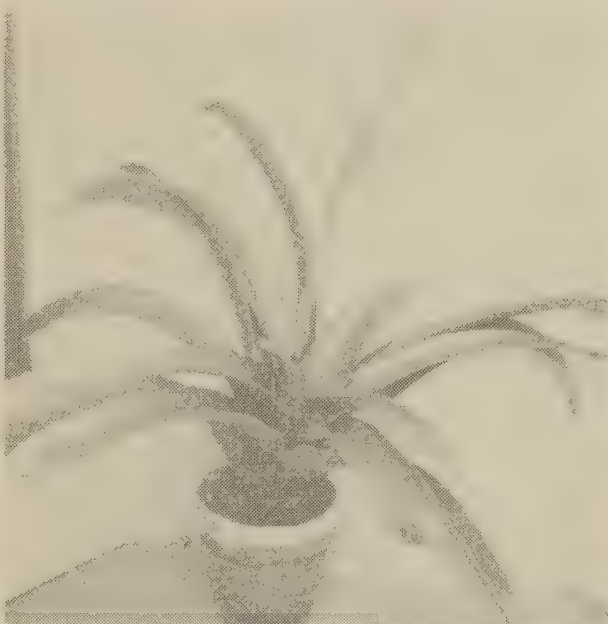
**STREPTOCALYX FLORIBUNDA** (Brazil) A giant with leaves to 6 and 8 ft. at maturity; has a many branched inflorescence; fine specimens, **\$15.00.**

**TILLANDSIA CAPITATA** (Mexico) Has small grey leaves in compact rosette; leaves become reddish at blooming period; flower head very spectacular with grey, yellow, purple coloring; plants 10 to 14 inches high with a 10 inch spread; **\$3.50 and \$5.00;** October bloom.

**TILLANDSIA GRANDIS** (Mexico) This becomes one of the



**VRIESIA RETROFLEXA**



**VRIESIA SCHWAKEANA**



**LIVING FLOWER VASE**

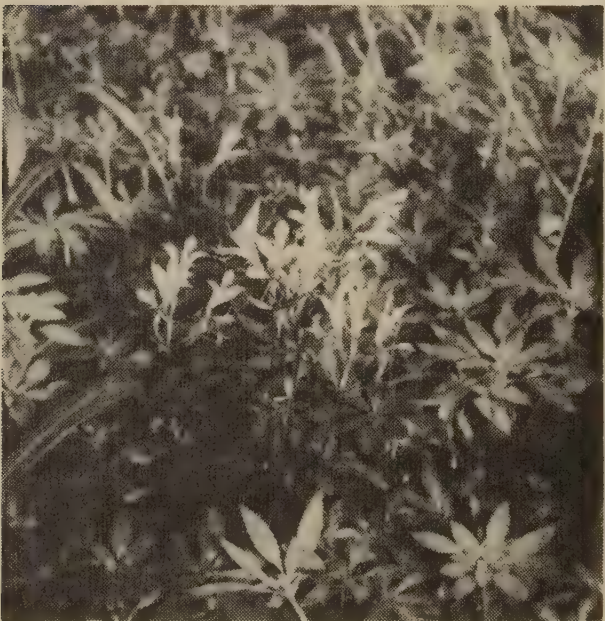




**LAELIA ANCEPS**



**LAELIA PURPURATA**  
var. ALBA



**ALSTROEMERIA**  
**CARYOPHYLLAEA**

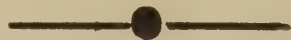
largest species in the genus, although we sell only small size plants; can take sub-tropical climate; natively grows high on rocks; has glabrous light green leaves unlike other tillandsias; often holds 5 gal. of water in its many leaf cups; flower stem reaches 11 feet; small plant in 3 inch pot, \$1.00; few larger ones at \$7.50 and \$10.00.

**TILLANDSIA STREPTOPHYLLA** (Mexico) Grey tomentose leaves, twisted and curled; branched inflorescence with soft grey and pink bracts; long lavender flowers; plants average 12 to 18 inches; \$7.50.

**TILLANDSIA LINDENII** (Lindeniana) One of the most coveted of all bromeliads; still a very rare plant. It is a dense rosette of maroon leaves longitudinally striped at base with maroon and green. The flat pink and green spike on the end of a long stem displays a beautiful large lavender-blue flower alternately on each side over a period of several weeks. Fall and winter blooming. \$15.00.

**VRIESIA BITUMINOSA** (Brazil) Attains a height of 16 to 20 in., flower stem 3 to 5 feet; good for greenhouse; smooth, spineless, blue-green leaves with a maroon-black "fingernail" tip; \$3.50 and \$5.00.

**WITTROCKIA SUPERBA** (Brazil) A striking rosette of stiff, glossy, red-tipped leaves with conspicuous spines; very rare; have only a few plants; \$7.50.



#### **CULTURAL SUGGESTIONS**

There is a bromeliad for almost any place in the house. They like a well lighted spot but they can be used in a dark spot from time to time if it is desirable. Sunlight through an uncurtained window is liable to burn the leaves; and bromeliads left in a very dark place too long are apt to grow extra long leaves; but they can take shade quite



well. It is best to rotate the position of your plants.

Watering is no problem with bromeliads. Keep the leaf cups filled with water. Generally the whole plant should be watered twice a week with a bulb-sprayer, a long necked watering can or held under a faucet in the kitchen sink. A routine such as every Wednesday and Saturday will help you remember just how often the bromeliads need water. In overheated apartments perhaps it would be wiser to spray the leaves more often. The natural trough-like shape of the bromeliad leaf conducts the water to its leaf-cup at the base where the water remains as a natural characteristic of the plant, contrary to the fears of the uninitiated who may think the plant might rot if so much water remains between its leaves. Some water is necessary on the roots, mostly to keep the soil firm. The small amount that spills over from each filling of the center may be enough, although a good soaking of the soil once in a while is wise.

The potting medium is no problem with bromeliads. Most of the air plant type of bromeliad makes the adjustment from its epiphytic tendencies over to pot culture rather well. And since bromeliads would rather be clinging to the rough bark of a tree with their roots bare we give them a light porous mixture of one half leaf-mold and one half sharp sand and if possible, some chopped osmundine or fern fiber. Most bromeliads will take this leaf-mold-sand mixture but it is best to use only osmundine fiber on Vriesias and Tillandsias. They are such highly specialized epiphytes in the evolution of plants that the adjustment in a household is better accomplished if they have osmundine for their roots.

The purpose is to give them a well drained acid potting medium that is not too rich since they feed only negligibly through their roots. They feed principally through the base of their leaves where the water is held. This water helps assimilate the chemicals of the air which this plant converts into food more directly than the terrestrial type of plant.

In potting them it is well to remember that the soil should not be up over the basal part of the leaves. Just over the stubby hard



**SANSEVERIA EHRENBERGII**



**EUPHORBIA LACTEA  
CRISTATA**



growth below the green leaf base. Some bromels are climbers and prefer hanging on to the edge of the pot. A tight soil makes firm roots. Moving or repotting does not set them back. They can be repotted or moved at any time of the season even just before the flowering period without retarding the flowering.

Do NOT take it upon yourself to fertilize bromeliads except with pulverized or liquid cow manure at great intervals or occasionally with hyponex.

When you obtain a bromeliad and you are sure that you have the proper potting medium, place it in a red clay pot making sure that several crocks have been placed over the hole in the clay pot to insure adequate drainage. Then place the clay pot inside a glazed jardiniere.

In most bromeliads the mother plant eventually dies, one to three years after blooming. But in the meantime the plant may have put out several side shoots which, after they attain the height of about six inches at more or less six months of age, they can be cut off and potted on their own. However, a cluster of bromeliads makes a very nice decoration, so you may allow the shoots to remain and remove the older plant when it ceases to look nice.

Any scale insect either black or white that may appear on the leaves, just push off with the fingernail or tooth brush. This may be a sign that the plant needs more light, so rotate your bromeliads.

Most bromeliads do not like an oil spray. All of our plants have been sprayed with Parathion and are insect free.

As in all plants there is constant process of growing new leaves and shedding old ones. If dry leaves appear at the bottom of the plant don't be alarmed . . . consider them like one does fingernails; they need trimming now and then. But if dry leaves appear in the center that is a sign of being too dry and more frequent watering should be done.

Bromeliads like cool nights, but of course, not freezing.

Whenever it is possible during the summer months bromeliads would enjoy being out in the shade under a tree so as to catch the summer rains.

Bromeliads do not make appreciable signs of growth by other plant growth standards. They grow from the center leaves and sometimes you may be almost unaware of their increase. The additional new leaves come but they are not fresh new green leaves . . . they are tough, mature leaves quite unlike the new growth on philodendron or any of the common house plants.

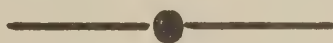
Bromeliads are primarily foliage plants and have a way of being thrilling in form and color even without the bloom appearing but when they do bloom you really have a "double feature." The big show in color of bromeliad flowers appears in the bracts of the flower stem. They are thrilling, different and a new plant experience.

No matter what other delightful attributes the bromeliads have over other plants or share in equal glory with other plants . . . there is one characteristic which distinguishes bromeliads from all other house plants . . . most of them can successfully be used as a living vase. The idea of a live, growing, self-producing flower vase attracts the attention of even the most experienced flower grower. This IS something new. Small cut flowers are placed between the leaves where the water is held. This forms an exceptionally novel flower feature and gives the observer really something to talk about.



**PRICE LIST OF ORCHIDS**  
and some other plant oddities

<b>BRASSAVOLA NODOSSA</b>	\$3.00 &	5.00
<b>BRASSAVOLA CUCULLATA</b>	3.00 &	5.00
<b>CALANTHE</b> hybrids (terrestrial)		2.00
<b>CATTLEYA CHOCOENSIS</b>	5.00 &	7.50
<b>CATTLEYA FORBESII</b>	5.00 &	7.50
<b>CATTLEYA MOSSIAE</b>	5.00 &	10.00
<b>CATTLEYA GIGAS</b>	5.00 &	7.50
<b>CATTLEYA TRIANAE</b>	5.00 &	10.00
<b>CATESETUM</b> species	3.00 &	5.00
<b>DENDROBIUM AGGREGATUM</b> (rare)		5.00
<b>EPIDENDRUM CILIARE</b>	3.00 &	4.00
<b>EPIDENDRUM TAMPENSE</b>	2.00 &	4.00
<b>LAELIA-CATTLEYA FORBOOTHIA</b>	4.50 &	7.50
<b>LAELIA-CATTLEYA CALISTAGLOSSA</b>	7.50 &	10.00
<b>LAELIA ANCEPS</b>	5.00 &	7.50
<b>LAELIA PURPURATA ALBA</b>	\$5.00, 7.50, 10.00, 15.00 &	25.00
(The Bride's Orchid; blooms for Mother's Day; especially fine.)		
<b>PHAIUS GRANDIFOLIUS</b>	\$3.50, 5.00, 7.50, 10.00 &	15.00
(A fine terrestrial orchid suitable as a house plant.)		



**MISCELLANEOUS NOVELTIES**

<b>AMARYLLIS RETICULATA STRIATIFOLIA</b>		\$3.50
<b>AMARYLLIS AULICA</b>		1.50
<b>AMARYLLIS BELLADONNA</b> var. <b>BARBATA</b>		5.00
(a rare white species once known as <i>A. equestre alba</i> )		
<b>COOPERIA BRAZILIENSIS</b> (new species)	25c each; dozen	2.25
<b>HABRANTHUS ROBUSTUS</b>	10c each; dozen	1.00
<b>HABRANTHUS BRACHYANDRUS</b>	.50c each	
<b>HAEMANTHUS MULTIFLORUS</b>		5.00
<b>EUPHORBIA LACTEA CRISTATA</b> (Carved Jade)		
(A marvelous oddity)		
	\$4.00; 5.00; 7.50; 10.00 &	15.00
<b>PEDILANTHUS VARIEGATUS</b> (Devil's Backbone)	.75 &	\$1.50
<b>BEGONIA ACETOSA</b> (First Introduction) (Brazil)		\$3.00
Underside of leaf crimson plush		
<b>SANSEVERIA EHRENBERGII</b> (Blue Sanseveria)		
The finest and most decorative of all sanseverias; new introduction; an excellent house plant; needs little care.		
	75c, 2.00, 3.00, 5.00, &	7.50
<b>SANSEVERIA SUFFRUTICOSA</b>	75c, \$1.50 &	3.00
<b>SANSEVERIA LIBERICA</b> (?)	1.00 &	2.00
Milk white stripes on dark green		
<b>SPATHIPHYLLUM PATINI</b>	1.00, 2.00 &	4.00
<b>CALATHEA ZEBRINA</b>		5.00
Has rich velvety, barred, light and dark green leaf with purple underside. Introduced over 100 years ago, but still unsurpassed in beauty.		
<b>ALSTROEMERIA CARYOPHYLLAEA</b>	\$1.00 each; dozen,	\$10.00
First plants for sale will be in 1950. This plant had been lost to horticulture for more than a century until I found it in 1940. The only fragrant winter blooming species; evergreen. Blooms from December through March.		
<b>ANTHURIUM ANDREANUM</b> hybrids	1.50 &	3.00



## PUBLICATIONS ON BROMELIADS

Informative literature on the subject of bromeliads is very scarce; what is obtainable is usually in a foreign language or is purely botanical. The following is a list of more popular writings done in recent years in the United States, but mostly out of print, although on file in libraries for the student.

- BOOK:** **"Brazil, Orchid of the Tropics"** by Mulford and Racine Foster, published by Ronald Press Co., 15 E. 26th St., New York 10, at \$3.50. Autographed copies can be obtained from the authors at 718 Magnolia Ave., Orlando, Fla. The book is a lively discourse on the difficulties of collecting bromeliads in the colorful country of Brazil. It is profusely illustrated with many photographs and drawings, including four kodachromes.
- PAPER:** **"Bromeliads of Brazil,"** by M. B. Foster, from the Smithsonian Annual Report, 1942, paper No. 3723; now out of print but a few copies can be obtained from the author at 25c each.  
**"Bromeliads Are Fascinating Plants,"** by Cutak and Pring in the Sept. 1945 Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin, St. Louis, Mo.
- BOOKLET:** **"Plant Life,"** 1945, Bromeliad Edition, contains the following: "Andre's Bromeliad Collecting in Colombia and Ecuador," and also "The Subfamilies and Genera of the Bromeliaceae, by L. B. Smith; "Where Bromeliads Are Found" and "How to Recognize the Bromeliads," by M. B. Foster;  
"A Survey of Bromeliads in Horticulture," by M. B. and Racine Foster;  
"Bromeliads in Southern California," by David Barry, Jr.  
"Bromeliads at the Missouri Botanical Garden," by Ladislaus Cutak;  
"Color in Bromeliads" and "Bromeliad Time of Flowering" by Racine Foster;  
"Spanish Moss as an Economic Plant," by Wyndham Hayward.

This bromeliad edition of PLANT LIFE is the only thing of its kind in English and can be obtained at \$2.00 from: E. Frederick Smith, Ass't Sec'y and Treas., American Plant Life Society, P. O. Box 2398, Stanford University, Calif.

- ARTICLES:** **"Air Minded Plants Take A Bow"** by M. B. and Racine Foster in GARDENER'S CHRONICLE, Aug., 1943 (432 Fourth Ave., New York.)  
**"One Step Ahead of Mother Nature,"** by M. B. Foster in the NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE, Oct., 1943 (Washington, D. C.)  
**"Are Your Plants Conversational Pieces?"** by M. B. Foster in HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, Nov., 1943 (572 Madison Ave., New York)  
**"Exploring For Tropical Plants,"** by M. B. Foster in the BULLETIN OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA, July, 1944 (Washington, D. C.)  
**"Air Plants for Home Horticulture,"** by M. B. Foster in the HOME GARDENING FOR THE SOUTH, Jan., 1944 (New Orleans, La.)



**"Lazy Gardener's Dream-Come-True,"** by M. B. Foster, Feb., 1944, in above magazine.

**"Jungle Air Dwellers,"** by Mulford and Racine Foster in FRONTIERS, Feb., 1944 (Academy of Natural Science, Phila., Pa.)

**"Lateral Inflorescences in the Bromeliaceae,"** by M. B. Foster, in NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE, Jan., 1945 (Washington, D. C.) Reprints can be ordered from the author, 25c.

**"Blueprint of the Jungle,"** M. B. Foster in the JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, Jan., 1945, Bronx Park, N. Y.

**"Introducing Bromeliads,"** by M. B. Foster in SOUTHERN HOME AND GARDEN, May, 1945. (Dallas, Texas)

**"What is a Bromeliad?"** by M. B. Foster, in FLOWER GROWER, Nov., 1945 (Grand Central Terminal, N. Y.)

**"Bright Plants for Dull Windows,"** by Montague Free, in HOME GARDEN, April, 1946.

**"Foolproof House Plants,"** by Ladislaus Cutak in HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, Nov., 1947.

**"Mother Nature's Original Flower Vase,"** by M. B. and Racine Foster, in GARDENER'S CHRONICLE, Sept., 1947.

**"Hybrid Dyckia, Lad Cutak,"** by M. B. Foster, in CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, Oct., 1947 (Pasadena, Calif.)

**"Do You Know the Bromeliads?"** a series by M. B. Foster in CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL for Oct. and Nov., 1945; Jan., 1946; March, April, May and July 1947 (Pasadena, Calif.) Reprinted in Cactus and Succulent Journal Year Book; available fall 1949 from Box 101, Pasadena, Calif., at \$5.00.

**"Bromeliads in Florida Horticulture,"** by Mulford B. Foster, published in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE FLORIDA STATE HORTICULTURE MEETING for 1948; reprints can be obtained from the author.

**"You Don't Need a Green Thumb with Bromeliads,"** by M. B. and Racine Foster in HOME GARDEN, Sept. issue 1949 (444 Madison Ave., New York)

A number of articles on various bromeliads under **"Plant Portraits,"** by T. H. Everett in GARDENER'S CHRONICLE for Oct. 1943; Feb. 1944; May 1944; March 1945; Oct. 1945; April 1949.

**"A Bromeliad For Every Interior,"** by M. B. and R. Foster in FLOWER GROWER, Nov. or Dec. 1949 (Grand Central Terminal, N. Y.)

**"Spanish Moss: Forest By-Product of the South,"** by G. S. Corfield in JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHY, Nov. 1943 (3333 Elston Ave., Chicago, Ill.) 35c.

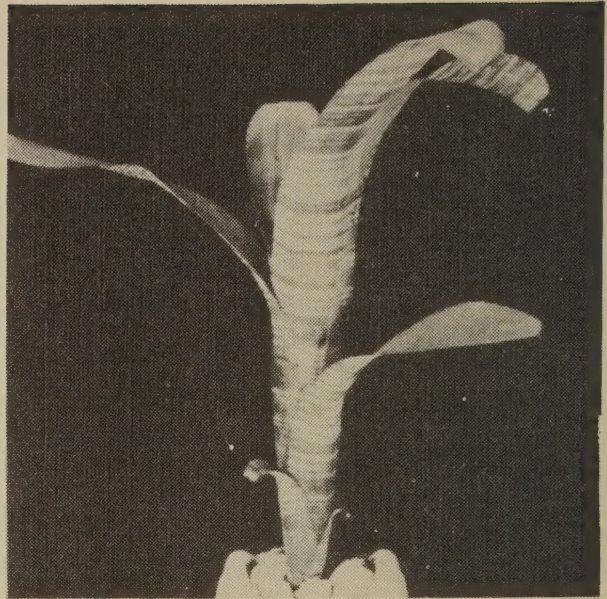
**"Air Plants and Their Problems of Survival,"** by E. E. Naylor in Journal of New York Botanical Garden, March 1945 (Bronx Park, N. Y.)

**"The Bromeliad-Malaria Complex in Trinidad,"** by C. S. Pittendrigh in EVOLUTION, March 1948. Prince & Lemon St., Lancaster. Pa.





**AECHMEA PINELIANA**



**BILLBERGIA VITTATA**



**BEGONIA ACETOSA**



**EPIDENDRUM TAMPENSE**



**CRYPTANTHUS BEUCKERII**



**AECHMEA FULGENS DISCOLOR**

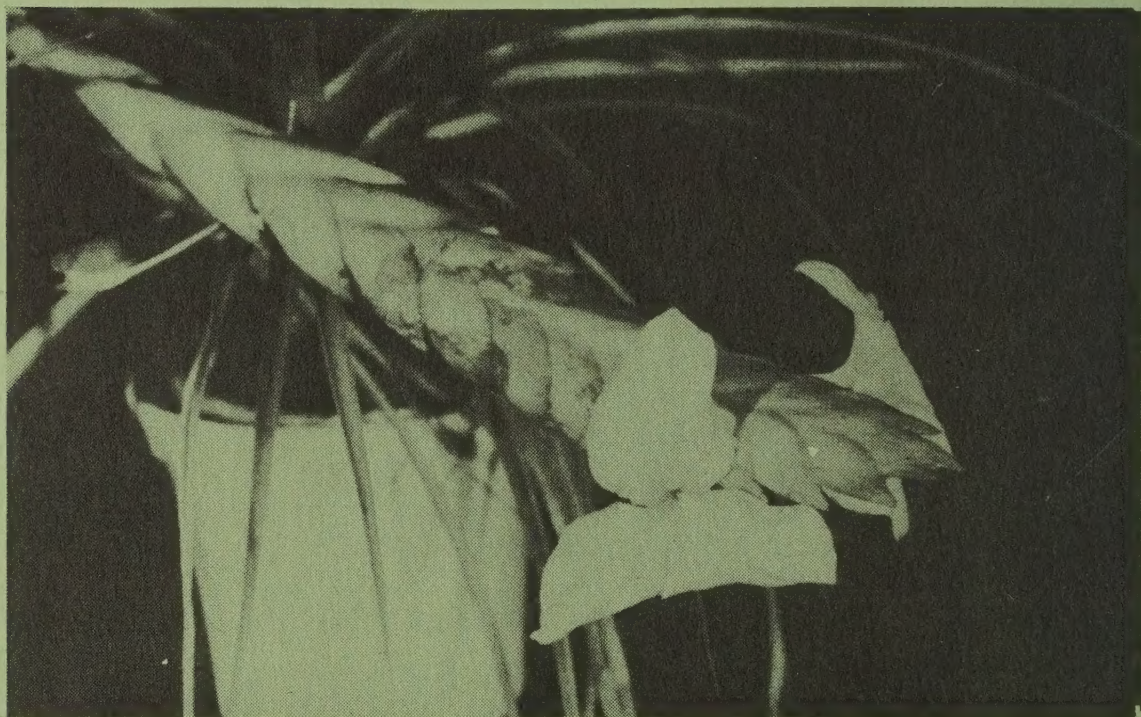








**NIDULARIUM FULGENS**



**TILLANDSIA LINDENII**

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U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Washington  
D.C.

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